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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Bruce

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Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: Aug 28, 1952

SUBJECT: Further US statement regarding Tunisia

PARTICIPANTS: The Acting Secretary
Mr. Jean Daridan, Acting French Charge d' Affairs
Mr. Ridgway Knight

COPIES TO: EUR - Mr. Bonbright
NEA - Mr. Jernegan
AF - Mr. Cyr
Embassy Paris
Consulate General - Tunis

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 10—61120-1

Mr. Daridan availed himself of an appointment with Mr. Bruce in connection with another matter to raise briefly the question of a further official US statement in connection with the Tunisian reform program proposed by the French, etc. He explained that according to information which the Embassy had received, the Bey and Prime Minister Bacouche are apparently falling increasingly under the influence of the more extreme Nationalists. In particular Ferhat Hached and other Tunisian labor leaders felt that their hand was being considerably strengthened by the strong sympathy and support which they were receiving from American labor. According to Mr. Daridan the French Government believes that a US statement urging moderation, bilateral negotiations, etc., would serve to deprive the Nationalists of their current best argument derived from this alleged American labor support.

Mr. Bruce briefly pointed out that the US Government did not and could not have any control over the actions and statements of American labor unions, and referred Mr. Daridan to their past conversations on the subject. Without any commitment, he said that the French request would be presented to the Secretary for his consideration upon his return next week.

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